

I cannot close this paper without noticing one more coast plant, *Entada Scandens*, Benth., for to see the trees covered with this immense climber, with its long beans often $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet long hanging from their branches, is a sight that will not easily be forgotten.

In conclusion, I may hope that although only a very short sketch has been taken of our North Queensland plants in this paper, enough has nevertheless been said to show that a wide and glorious field is open for the botanist and others who delight to contemplate "the works of an Almighty hand."

Descriptions of three supposed new species of Birds from the
New Hebrides.

By E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S.

I purposed this evening to give an account of a small collection of Birds made by Dr. Mackinlay, containing about 20 species, from some of the seldom visited Islands of the New Hebrides Group, but finding less time on my hands than I anticipated, and rather than hurry over the matter, I shall confine myself to describing two or three of those which appear to me to be new. At our next meeting I hope to give a complete list of all the species obtained.

MACROPTYGIA MACKINLAYI, SP. NOV.

The whole of the upper surface dark ashy brown, darker in the wings, the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th primary quills with an unobscured narrow line of white on the edge of the outer web, the rump and upper tail-coverts, wing-coverts and scapularies minutely freckled with ashy white, giving a powdery appearance to those parts; the under surface is of a light ashy brown, blackish in the centre of the chest feathers which are forked; the throat and the whole of the under surface minutely freckled with a light ashy tint, under wing-coverts and inner webs of quills ashy white; tail ashy brown, lighter below the outer feathers, above blackish, with the tips ash white and an oval cream-colored patch occupying the central portion of the feathers

and extending over the outer web to the base ; the blackish colour from the inner web extends in a wedge-shaped stripe along the shaft ; the next feather similar, but without the whitish mark on the outer web ; an oval oblique spot of cream color on the inner web only on the third quill, the 4th, 5th and 6th without spots and of a uniform ash brown ; under tail-coverts creamy white ; tarsi olive brown ; bill black.

Total length, 12 inches ; bill, from forehead, 0·6 inch ; from base of nostril, 0·5 inch ; wing, 6·1 inches ; tail to central feathers 6·8 inches, to outer 3·6 inches ; tarsi 0·85 inch ; middle toe and nail, 1·05 inches.

Sex. Female.

Hab. Island of *Tanna*.

This interesting species has the peculiarity of having the feathers of the chest forked, as in some of the *Ptilonopi*.

I have named it in honor of Dr. Mackinlay, of H. M. S. *Nymphe*, an officer much attached to the science and the study of ornithology, and to whom the Museum is indebted for many fine specimens collected in the S. S. Islands.

MACROPYGIA RUFA, SP. NOV.

The whole of the upper surface chocolate brown ; the tail-quills washed with ashy brown ; primary coverts ; primary and secondary quills, dark ashy brown ; tail above washed with the same ashy tint ; the axillaries, under tail and wing-coverts, and inner webs of the quills towards the base deep chocolate red ; all the under surface chocolate brown, paler on the throat ; minutely freckled on the chest and sides of the neck and face, with ashy ; the feathers on chest slightly forked. The outer tail feathers have a transverse oblique slate-colored band towards the tip, extending on the inner web towards the base ; the 2nd and 3rd similar to the 4th has some ashy slate-colored shadings on the inner web towards the tip ; bill black, legs and feet greyish flesh color.

Total length, 11 inches ; wing, 5·7 ; tail, 6·1 ; tarsi, 0·8 ; bill from forehead, 0·65 ; from base of nostril, 0·5 ; middle toe and nail, 1 inch.

Hab. Havannah Harbour, Sandwich Island.

Notwithstanding the great differences in the coloration between this and the previous species (*M. Mackinlayi*) from Tanna, they may hereafter prove identical; the style of markings are very similar; but the bill in *M. rufa* is stronger and more rounded at the tip; both have comparatively weak bills, and on the whole are very slightly built birds.

CHALCOPHAPS CHRYSOCHLORA, *Sandwichensis* Var.

This variety is in plumage like *C. chrysochlora*, but my specimens have no white on the shoulders, the bands on the rump are narrower; the interscapular region, the back of the head and neck, of a darker and duller chocolate brown; the lower part of the breast and the abdomen washed with a more ashy tint; and the coloration on the whole duller. In size the bird is smaller by one inch in the total length. Bill and legs reddish.

Total length, 8·5 inches; wing, 5·3 inches; tail, 3·2 inches; tarsi, 1 inch; bill, from forehead 0·8, from base of nostril 0·6 inch.

Sex. — ?

Hab. Vela Harbour, Sandwich Islands.

I subjoin the measurements of an average-sized specimen of *Chalcophaps chrysochlora* from N. S. W. for comparison.

Total length, 9 inches; wing 6, tail 3·6, tarsi 1·1 inches; bill from forehead 0·86, from base of nostril 0·7 inch.

This is probably the species from Tanna referred to as *C. chrysochlora*, var. by Dr. Gray, in P. Z. S., 1859, p. 165. See Catalogue of Birds of the Tropical Islands of the Pacific.

EXHIBITS.

Mr. Ramsay exhibited the new Birds referred to in his paper. Mr. Masters exhibited two *Volutes*—*V. Turneri* and *V. flavicans*, and two strange-looking sponge-bearing Crabs of the genus *Maia*.